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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABORFORCE

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

November 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

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Volume 8 Number 11

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

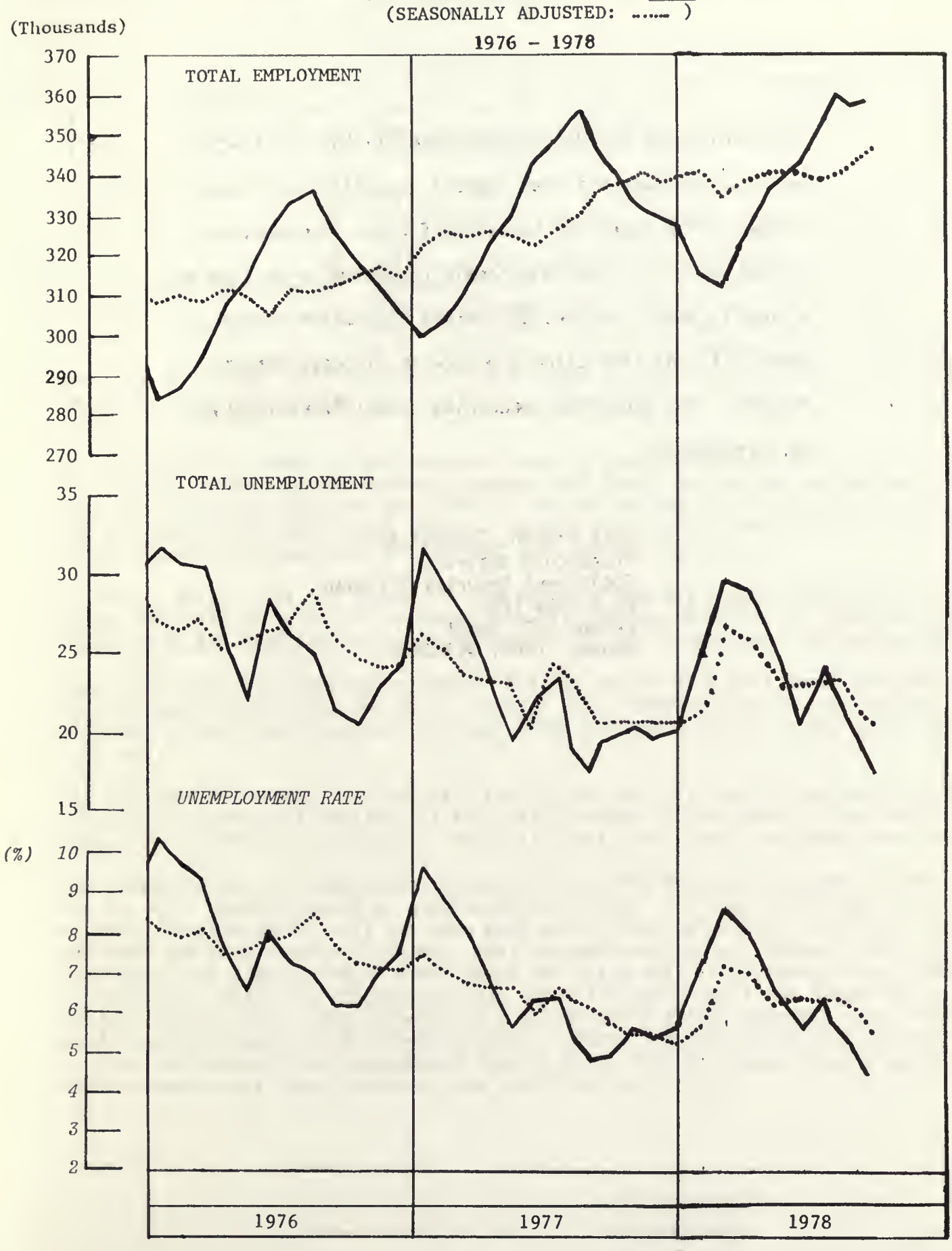
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1976 - 1978



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

The unemployment rate continued to improve in October, even as the labor force statistics are beginning to contract due to seasonal factors. All of the statistics show improvement over last October indicating continued growth for the Montana economy.

The civilian labor force is at 364,200 up by 5.3% from last October's 346,000, although it has declined from September's 375,900 level as seasonal adjustments occur. Employment has jumped by an even better 6.4% since October of 1977 and is now estimated to be 348,100. The unemployment rate improved even further from September's low rate of 4.6% and is calculated to be 4.4% in October. This is a considerable improvement over the 5.4% rate for October 1977. The number of jobless individuals has dropped by 2,700 since last October and is now at a 16,100 level, which is also down from September's 17,200.

The agricultural sector is now being affected by adverse weather, but most of the fall was very conducive to harvest, seeding, and field preparation activities. The sugar beet campaign has been completed in Eastern Montana with reports of a good crop. The Christmas tree industry is becoming an important part of the agricultural sector in Northwestern Montana with the harvest just now taking place.

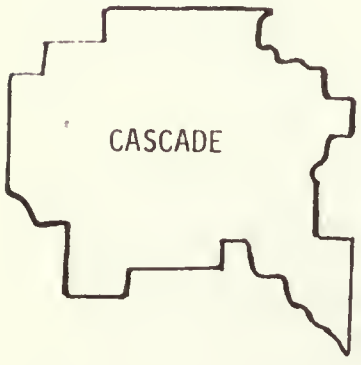
Inclement weather has hit Montana during November and has stayed longer than is normal for this early in the season. Many layoffs have occurred in construction fields with the hope that work and employment can be resumed when the weather breaks.

The retail sector is gearing up for the holiday season with most areas anticipating an excellent sales period and year. Reports have indicated that winter weather gear and recreational equipment for the winter have been helped by the early snows and cold.

New business formations for the state are up 13% over last year's January to October figure with nearly all portions of the state sharing in the growth. The Great Falls SMSA, is, in fact the only area in the state that shows fewer new firms than in 1977.

The composite and real spendable indicators show that Montana's economy is growing but is still being bothered by persistent inflation. The composite index is up slightly for the month as it has been each month since July, but it has still not exceeded the peak reached in March. Real spendable wages are, however, down for the month even with a rise in gross wages not being able to counteract the inflationary effects. Montana's economy may also react at some time in the future to the rising interest rate. Any cutbacks in housing starts due to interest rate increases would soon hit the crucial lumber and wood products industry of Western Montana. The outlook for Montana's economy should then be for continued steady growth, but certainly tempered by these interest rate and inflation problems.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of people registered in the civilian labor force declined from September's 35,900 to 35,100 for October. The figure was also 900 people below last year's count of 36,000. The August labor force tallied at 34,200 a full 2.5% less than the current number. October's employment of 33,200 also improved from August's 32,000 figure. September's and last year's employment were 600 above October calculation at 33,800.

The jobless count for October revealed 1,900 were unemployed. One year ago 2,200 people were seeking jobs. September's 2,100 jobless was only a slight decrease from August's 2,200. The month's unemployment rate of 5.5% is down .6% from last year's 6.1%. The declining trend of unemployed was reflected in August's 6.5% and September's 6.0%.

Although the unemployment rate of 5.5% is above the statewide average of 4.4%, the agrarian nature of its economy dictates it as normal.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The favorable weather throughout most of the month allowed construction projects to continue. A $1 million soft-drink bottling plant had its ground-breaking ceremony.

New businesses for the month of October were counted at 26. The year-to-date total is 385 as compared with last October's year-to-date of 435. The current figure shows a contraction of 13% but it should be noted that this statistic must be used in conjunction with other economic indicators before any conclusions can be drawn.

The major manufacturing plant laid off 15 workers during the month and no news about their recall has been recieved. Wholesale and retail trade does look more favorable as preparation for the holiday season has begun. The agricultural sector demands have remained steady as workers are needed to winterize facilities. Construction has reported no new projects and work has slowed with the arrival of winter weather.

Job placements in the SMSA are up 28% above the last fiscal year, according to the local Job Service office. Total placements for the period-to-date are 6,456, of which 5,358 were non-agricultural.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate fell to 3.0% from September's 3.6% and August's 4.2%. The Billings SMSA had a 4.3% unemployment rate in October 1977. The number of jobless individuals dropped 600 from August and 400 from September to an October level of 1,600. One year ago there were 2,300 unemployed persons.

The October civilian labor force contracted to 53,300 from last month's 54,300. Although the current labor force is 2,300 larger than August's 51,000 it was 300 below the 1977 October figure. Employment figures corresponded to the civilian labor force with its October figure of 53,300 below September's 54,300. Again the August employed numbering 48,800 was below the current level. One year ago the job holders equaled 51,300.

The Billings SMSA is undergoing seasonal contractions in its economy as are all the labor markets, however, its diverse base should allow favorable conditions. Any analysis should consider all factors and not just labor force statistics.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New businesses for the year-to-date totaled 735 showing a 12% increase over the 1977 year-to-date total of 649. The October figure of 64 was a slight decrease in new businesses from the 76 starts last year.

Areawide business appeared to be good. In Roundup the lumber mill plans on expanding its 11 man crew to about 50 and tripling its production capacity. In Laurel as of October 123 business permits at a value of $3,837,018 have been filed. Some permits are for a chain foods store, drug store, and a medical building addition.

In Billings construction work continues on the hospital, downtown hotel, and an apartment complex. Plans exist for a $882,000 elementary school, a $225,000 church, and $630,000 remodeling project for the major communication company.

The new shopping mall opened during the month and the businesses have good expectations for the holiday season. Hiring has begun to pick up with the expectations.

The sugar beet harvest is nearly 100% complete; at full staff one manufacturer is reported to processing 180 tons of beets per hour. Other agricultural activity has slowed down as winter weather has set in. Also the outdoor construction was halted by the first snow.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the LMA continued its seasonal decline in numbers and is now at 35,300 for October. This is, however, a 6.6% increase over last October's similar figure. Employment is following similar seasonal trends, but shows an even better 7.8% increase over the same month last year, as 33,300 persons are employed in the area in October.

The jobless rate and number of unemployed persons are also indicating positive movement. The number of unemployed is now estimated to be 2,000 compared with 2,300 in September and 2,800 in August. It is also an improvement over last October's 2,200 figure. The jobless rate is at 5.7%, a considerable gain over the 6.6% calculated for October of 1977. The labor force statistics for the LMA contradict the dire economic predictions for the area stated in some quarters, and actually show a growing economy for the area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A Butte-based center for inventors is helping create jobs throughout a multi-state area, according to reports released. The non-profit center provides technical assistance to develop and market new products.

Proposals to develop the uptown area of Butte are again in the news. The renewed interest was partially kindled by an announcement from a major metals firm that it will spend about $1 million in remodeling an uptown building to be utilized at its Butte operations headquarters.

Fire continued to plague the uptown area as another major blaze occurred during the month. Several offices had to be relocated after the fire, but reports from the local Job Service indicate that only two restaurant workers were laid off due to the blaze.

The Dillon area shows signs of growth even as the construction season comes to a conclusion. A new hardware store and an office building are nearing completion with inside work remaining. Two area motels were purchased and the purchasers have announced plans for remodeling the facilities and adding a restaurant. Housing construction also continues in the area.

October building permits for Butte-Silver Bow were valued at $1.2 million. New housing construction continues to highlight the building starts, but climbing interest rates may soon slow it.

Some seasonal shutdowns and weather related layoffs have occurred, but local Job Service offices have noted no great influx of claimants and applicants.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the Bozeman area jumped slightly during October but is still well below the statewide figure with the LMA rate at 3.3%. The rate is also an improvement over the 4.2% registered in October of 1977. The number of unemployed persons is staying fairly constant with the 1,000 noted in October comparing favorably with the 1,000 noted in August, the 900 noted in September, and the October 1977 calculation of 1,000.

Employment shows a 22.7% increase over the same month's figure of last year and is now at a 28,100 level. This is a slight decrease from last month's 28,500 but such seasonal declines are to be expected. The civilian labor force is at 29,100 down from August's 29,600 and September's 29,400 but a 21.8% jump over last October's labor force estimate. The figures certainly confirm the reports of a growing Bozeman economy and seem to indicate some lessening of the seasonality in the LMA economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity which is not already enclosed has come to an abrupt halt with recent snows. Resultant layoffs have caused about 60 persons to file unemployment insurance claims. A $750,000 warehouse facility for a power company is nearing completion. Private home building continue but may be beginning to slow due to tight money. Building permits issued in Bozeman for October totaled $1.8 million in value, down about $600,000 from last October's figure.

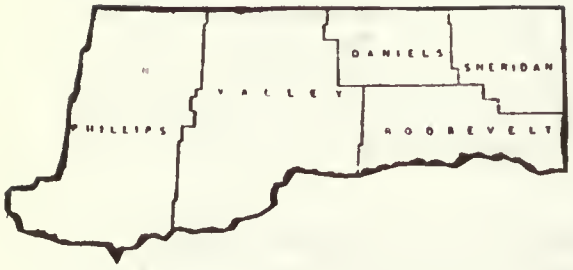
Agricultural activities have also been halted by the weather. The potato harvest was completed before the inclement weather arrived, along with some field preparation. Snows have required that most activity now be devoted to feeding operations.

A mobile home manufacturer closed down for a week in October, but is now back in full operations. The shutdown is a normal annual occurrence.

The trade and service sectors are in a brief lull but expect business to pick up soon. The retail sector is anticipating an excellent holiday sales season. The service sector, especially that related to tourist trade, should soon start its winter season as the LMA's ski areas open.

New business formations for the Bozeman area are well ahead of last year's pace. The year-to-date total of 475 is about a 27% jump from last year's statistic. Most of the increase is concentrated in Gallatin County.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor market area followed the seasonal shrinking pattern. The civilian labor force declined from August's 17,700 to September's 16,800 and ending at 15,900 for October. Last year's figure of 16,300 is 2.5% higher than the current level. Unemployment, however, did improve over the year with 700 unemployed in October 1977 as compared with 600 currently. Employment for October is 15,300 which is 1,600 less than August and 900 below September. One year ago employment stood at 15,600. This month's jobless rate of 3.8% compares favorably with last year's 4.6% and August's rate of 4.3%.

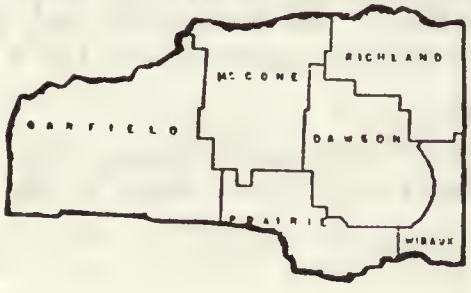
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The construction season continued into the month as mild weather was prevalent. Project starts on highway re-surfacing and steel building erection took place in Poplar. Glasgow began a $285,000 addition to a local organization's meeting place, a government office, bridge repairs, and $2,750,000 manor. The 100 unit manor has an expected completion date of January.

During the month of October 12 new businesses started, thus bringing the year's total to 118. Last October had 5 business entrants into the labor market area. The year-to-date totals show no significant change, however.

Business in the retail sector reported trade was very good during October. The packing plant was operating at full-swing. Some demand has existed in agriculture for late hay hauling and winter preparation. In general, the area is undergoing normal seasonal conditions.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Glendive labor force figures show seasonal declines, but compared with last year's October totals indicate the stable nature of the area's economy. The civilian labor force numbers 14,200 down very slightly from last October's 14,300. As the good weather concludes, the labor force has declined from the August and September figures of 15,400 and 14,800 respectively. Employment is at 13,900 also down from the previous two months and slightly below the 14,000 recorded in October of 1977.

The number of unemployed has also been falling and is now at approximately 300 persons for the LMA. The jobless rate of 2.0% is below last October's 2.4% and a drop from August's 2.8% and September's 2.3%. The rate is also well below the statewide average of 4.4% for October. The Glendive LMA continues to have a very stable economy with low unemployment.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The sugar beet harvest is completed and reports indicate the crop was excellent. The harvest campaign employed many people ranging from truck drivers and scale operators to laborers in the processing facility.

Construction continues throughout the LMA. A power generation facility, oil field pipelines, and a natural gas processing plant are underway. At Sidney, retail stores and offices are being built in various parts of the area. Drive-in restaurants are under construction in both Glendive and Sidney. Some layoffs have hit the construction sector as cold weather and snow slowed activity in the latter part of the period.

The transportation sector was in fine shape during the period as railroads and trucks were heavily used in the sugar beet harvest and oil transport also grew.

The retail and service sectors were busy during the period as a secondary market to the activity in the beet harvest and oil field exploration. These sectors should improve even more as the holiday buying season begins its influence.

The local Job Service offices reported some demand occupations in the LMA. Periodic shortages of truck drivers and laborers occurred during the sugar beet campaign. A shortage of skilled medical personnel is continuing. Restaurant openings have caused some demand for workers in the area.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of unemployed persons for October is at 400 for the Hardin-Red Lodge LMA, the same as in this September, but down from last October's 600 tally. The jobless rate is at 3.6%, slightly up from September's 3.2% rate, but well below the 5.0% recorded in October of 1977.

Seasonal decreases brought the civilian labor force to an 11,700 level down from August's 13,700 and September's 12,500, but the 11,700 is an increase over the 11,400 reported one year ago. Employment shows an even better 4.6% increase over last year with 11,300 persons employed in October. The figure is a decline from August and September levels, but not as much of a decline as is normal. Overall, the statistics show the area to be growing slightly with an improved employment situation adding to the positive news.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The bids were opened on a large project for an addition to the Big Horn County Courthouse in Hardin with a $959,000 low offer. The start will be delayed until legal documents are completed and weather may further delay the actual start. A portion of the cost will be reimbursed by a grant from the Montana Coal Tax Board. As a coal producing area, the grant can be applied for on impact related projects.

Reports from the area indicate that a Job Service office will continue to be staffed in Hardin. The office makes employment and training opportunities available to the community.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA (Cont.)

The sugar beet harvest has been completed with a fine crop sent to the Billings processing facility. Some field work has continued as weather permits.

A coal mine that is shutdown at Bear Creek by violations of mining regulations is expected to re-open. The nine miners fired before the closure have been reclassified as laid off by the firm. Most of those involved have moved on to other mining jobs.

New businesses in the area are up 42% over last year's similar total. All four counties have totals that exceed last year's figures.

The Red Lodge economy should begin to pick up as the ski season has already begun. The retail and service sectors will be affected the most by an influx of skiers.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Labor force figures for October reflect the end of the harvest season in this area of grain crops. The civilian labor force totaled 12,100 this month, down 600 from last month's 12,700 and 5.5% less than last year's 12,800. There were 11,700 persons employed in October, 600 fewer than the 12,300 counted both in September, and in October of 1977.

Unemployment changed very little from last year, showing 400 this October and 500 in October a year ago. There were also 400 unemployed recorded in September. The unemployment rate, one of the lower in the state declined slightly to 3.5% this month from 3.8% a year ago and 3.6% last month. These figures indicate that this labor market area has a fairly stable economy, with only the usual seasonal decline.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Early in this report period the weather was unusually favorable for outdoor work, but during the latter part cold and snow arrived, stopping at least temporarily all outdoor activities.

The construction and oil drilling industries had taken advantage of the good weather while it lasted, and some hiring was noted at that time. However, since the snow many persons have been laid off, and 69 initial unemployment claims were taken during one week at the Havre Job Service office.

Sixteen new businesses and corporations were recorded during October for this area, most of them in Hill County. For the first ten months of the year there were 137 compared with 129 for the same period in 1977. Wholesale/retail trade and service industries continued at a steady pace and were starting to prepare for the busy holiday season.

Farm and ranch work has slowed down since the end of harvest, and is settling into winter maintenance. Summer fallowing and rock picking have been stopped by the snow and the main concern now is winter feeding and any repairs that can be made indoors.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force statistics for Helena show some seasonal declines but all compare favorably with last year's similar figures. The civilian labor force numbers 26,800, down from August and September tallies but a 6.8% increase over last October's 25,100 level. Employment has jumped by 7.1% in the same period although it too shows seasonal losses in reaching its 25,600 figure.

Unemployment is very steady in the area as the 1,200 shown for October is the same figure reported for September and last October. The jobless rate, however, does show some improvement since last October as it is now 4.4% compared to a 4.9% recorded then. The 4.4% rate is up slightly from September's rate but exactly the same as the statewide average. The LMA shows a growing labor force with relatively constant unemployment making for a slight drop in the unemployment rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction continued through part of the period until recent stoppages of all but indoor work due to inclement weather. Road projects on MacDonald Pass and east of Helena are open to traffic with minor work remaining before total completion. Housing construction continues, but reports are that the real estate market is slowing down. Continued work is reported on restaurants, a motel, and a motel expansion, while the new bank opens soon. The shopping center controversy continues with the developers, the city government, county planning organization, and the courts involved.

The retail sector reports a strong buying surge with an anticipated record sales year. The recent snow and cold weather has pushed sales of winter clothing, snow tires, and other winter related sales.

The new record snowfall and cold virtually stopped all construction, but some has resumed. In contrast, the snow removal business was booming as businesses and rural residents clamored for their services.

A shortage of clerical workers continues to plague the area, as data entry clerks, programmers, and clerk stenos continue in demand. Ironically, at the same time the Job Service reports that immigration is keeping unemployment up, as the newcomers skills just do not relate to the labor market that exists.

The newly elected legislature will be closely watched in its actions on tax cuts, spending cuts government expansion, and state employee salaries. As the Helena economy is certainly based on governmental activity, any such actions mentioned above could have profound influences on the LMA economy.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate fell to 6.3% from August's 6.8% and September's 6.4%. This year's rate is a significant decline from the 8.6% that took place one year ago. Improvement in the rate is apparent even though that statewide level is 4.4%. The number of jobless individuals reached 2,300, after declining from August's 2,600 and September's 2,400. One year ago 2,700 persons were unemployed.

The civilian labor force for the labor market area is 14% larger than last October's 31,600 workers. The current figure of 36,600 is 1,100 less than September and 1,300 less than August. The decline is normal seasonal adjustment. Employment for both preceding months was 35,300. October's jobholders numbered 34,300 an 18.7% change over last year's 28,900. Although the indicators exhibit significant changes, it should be noted the area is subject to extreme seasonality and weather patterns.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

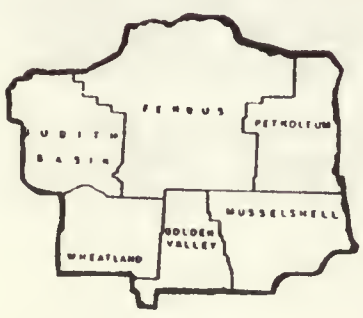
Construction projects were moving along throughout the LMA with the months favorable weather. There were 156 persons employed on the dam project, from which 70 were provided by local contractors. The remaining workers were employed through government or university systems. A paper manufacturer is undergoing $500,000 worth of remodeling and updating, with employment of 25 local carpenters. The $1.2 million storm sewer and curb project is 50% complete. The courthouse remodeling valued at $875,000 also continued during the month. Other construction news, is that a restaurant chain plans to build a 110 seat establishment.

Business for the LMA is gearing up for the holiday season with favorable expectations. Two local manufacturers have added night shifts. The Christmas tree harvest has employed more than 200 people. The service sector also has had calls.

Due to seasonal weather at the end of the reporting period, most outdoor construction has been halted. The Forest Service and National Park service began laying off its seasonal employees. Approximately 900 employees with some 400 to 500 taking vacation time, were given leave so remodeling can take place at a local manufacturing plant.

New business formations were up 15% over last year. The October total is 46 with the year-to-date at 578.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force and employment decreased again this month in the Lewistown labor market area. The labor force totaled 10,000 persons, as compared with 10,500 in September and 10,600 a year ago, a 5.7% change. Employment dropped 600 from both last month and last year's total of 10,200 to this month's 9,600.

The number of unemployed remained the same this October as last year totaling 400, but this is 100 more than last month's 300. The unemployment rate of 3.7% for this October was lower than the 4.2% calculated for Octobrt 1977, but higher than

LEWISTOWN LMA (Cont.)

last month's 3.3%. This follows the normal pattern of seasonal slowdown, and compares favorable with the 4.4% October rate for the state.

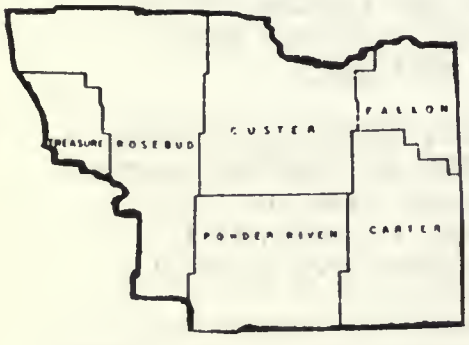
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction work continued on several new business buildings including a bank and a drive-in in Lewistown. Some layoffs from highway construction and pre-mix concrete jobs occurred later in this reporting period because of the snow and cold, but any projects finished enough for inside work still needed workers. A new Army Reserve Center is to be built in Lewistown and it is expected that local firms will be able to bid on various parts of the construction. A request for funding will be placed early in the spring. The missile updating project is on schedule in this area and the probable completion date is early February.

Harvesting and seeding were mainly completed before the bad weather, so livestock handling and feeding along with repair and maintenance work will be the principal jobs in the agricultural sector until spring.

Local sawmills and lumber companies were temporarily laying off people during the storm, but they are expected to rehire as weather permits. Trade remained steady with the holiday buying soon to start giving a lift to the economy in the fall. In this labor market area there were 13 new businesses and corporations recorded during October. The total for the year January through October stands at 102, only slightly more than the 99 of the same period in 1977.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the Miles City area is now at 14,500 a slight 2% drop from last October's 14,800 level. The level has also declined from August's 15,500 and September's 15,000 as is normal for the time of the year. Employment is at 14,000 slightly down from the 14,300 recorded for October of 1977.

Unemployment dropped by 100 from the August and September level and is now at 500. This figure is the same as that estimated for last October, however, the jobless rate shows improvement as it is now 3.3% compared to last October's 3.8%. The rate is also below August's 4.0% and September's 3.7%. The statistics for October indicate the usual seasonal changes and reveal little else except the stable nature of the area's economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction projects continued unabated during the early portion of the period, but now have been slowed by weather and only enclosed work is progressing. The new buildings at the community college are on schedule, according to reports. An extensive street paving project will be completed in the spring, but most of the curbing is done. Major sites continue to operate in spite of the weather, as they have been partially completed and offer protection from the weather. A disco and supper club, a restaurant and a major discount store are underway. Some weather related unemployment claims were filed late in the period as shutdowns occurred.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

A mini-mall facility is open in downtown Miles City with most facilities now occupied. The retail sector is gearing up for the holiday season.

Agriculture noted much activity early in the period when the weather was good. The sugar beet harvest and field preparation were the main activities. The livestock market has reported cattle prices as moderately down at one sale, but stable for the mohth.

Occupational shortages periodically occurred but for the most part supply was meeting demand in the labor market. Skilled clerical fields and experienced restaurant/cafe personnel were occupations mentioned as being open at times.

New business formations are at 127 for the year, slightly ahead of last year. This figure, along with other indicators, confirm the stable nature of the Miles City economy.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Missoula Labor Market area continues to show a strong growth rate in both labor force and employment from last year. The labor force in October numbered 52,800, a 16.3% change from last year's 45,400, but dropped slightly from last month when there were 53,000 on the rolls. Employment showed a similar pattern with 50,000 persons listed this month, 18.2% more than the 42,300 in October 1977, but 300 less than the 50,300 counted last month.

The usual slowdown in the fall accounts for the small rise is unemployment from last month's 2,700 to 2,800 this month. The unemployment rate showed a corresponding rise to 5.3% for October from the 5.2% calculated in September. That the economy if the area is improving is indicated by the decline from last year's unemployment figures. Last October there were 3,100 unemployed, 300 more than this year, and the uenmployment rate was 6.8%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In Missoula County during October 105 building permits were issued with a total valuation of $6,141,089. Of these permits, 46 were for new residences, including a duplex and triplex. A department store was building in one of the shopping centers, with a cost of $1,209,800, and an addition to a school was valued at $1,044,772. A year ago there were 140 permits, with $5,110,810 valuation. Other construction in Missoula included remodeling a restaurant, two business buildings on the south highway, and the Chamber of Commerce new building, which has opened this month. A six or seven story hotel and convention center costing $8 million will start construction next spring. The street project in Hamilton was completed and other projects will start if there is a break in the weather. A house building company in this area has had five cancellations due to higher interest rates, but other home building seems to be continuing.

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

The potato harvest in Ravalli County was completed and sorting begun, but was stopped when the cold weather arrived. Christmas tree harvest has started, but most farm and ranch work consists of fencing and supplemental feeding.

New businesses and corporations started in this area during Ocrober totaled 72 compared with 53 last year. The period of January through October recorded 718 this year and 644 last year. Hunting season has helped the retail trade sector, and wholesale and retail dealers and the service industry are expecting a profitable holiday season. A stereo shop and a pool supply store have opened recently and a manufacturing business is producing counter tops. Some negative aspects of the economy, mostly seasonal, are noted. Logging had been going on a good pace until the snow and cold arrived, and both the State and U. S. Forest Service Services have laid off summer help. The labor dispute between a hospital and the Nurses Association continues in the fifth month. Although there is not as much activity in the winter, and immigration of people looking for work adds to the unemployment, this labor market area has a favorable outlook for a growing economy.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force continued in a seasonal contraction. October's labor force of 16,900 people is equal to last year's, but lower than August's 20,100 and September's 18,800. Employment stands at 16,100 workers, a gain of 100 over last year. The seasonal change can be noted in the drop in employment of 2,900 from August and 1,800 from September. Unemployment showed a slight decrease of 100 from September, but a gain of 100 from last year. The seasonal contraction was also visible in the unemployment rate. August's 5.5% became 4.8% in September and 4.5% in October. One year ago the unemployment rate was at 5.5%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The labor market area showed a 20% increase in new businesses. Numbers for the month-to-date are 199 as compared with 158 in October 1977.

The mild weather in the early part of the month allowed Cut Bank contractors to continue work on a new shopping center, civic center, and senior citizens complex.

Demand for skilled workers stayed strong. The oilfield placed eight workers during the month, but the hospitals throughout the market area suffer an acute shortage of nursing staff. The service sector also has calls in sales, bookkeeping, food service, and domestic.

With the completion of harvest, and the winter weather, farm demands are low. Some dalls of workers to help prepare machinery and storage for the winter have been taken.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 1978

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	274	95	2115
CETA-CEP	73	43	201
CETA-INST.	27	27	236
CETA-OJT	23	17	79
JOB CORPS	36	21	404
PSE TITLE II	18	10	207
PSE TITLE VI	20	30	605
PSE TITLE VI-A	66	15	467
CETA - AWE	31	17	59
STIP	9	--	22
HIRE II	25	16	100

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	SEPTEMBER 1978	*Percent Change From:* AUGUST 1978	SEPTEMBER 1977
All Items	199.1	*.7*	*8.2*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

OCTOBER 1978

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*9.2%*
Female	*47.8%*
Youth	*10.3%*
Over 45	*20.8%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	307.5	283.1	262.2	20.9	24.4	*7.9*	*8.8*	*
February	309.0	286.1	263.0	23.1	22.9	*7.4*	*8.7*	*
March	317.0	294.2	266.1	28.1	22.8	*7.2*	*8.1*	*
April	325.9	306.8	271.8	35.0	19.1	*5.9*	*7.4*	*
May	329.6	313.0	276.7	36.3	16.6	*5.0*	*6.7*	*
June	345.5	324.2	282.5	41.7	21.3	*6.2*	*8.0*	.1
July	354.4	334.8	289.9	44.9	19.6	*5.5*	*7.8*	.1
August	357.4	338.6	290.2	48.4	18.8	*5.3*	*7.6*	.1
September	344.7	327.9	289.9	38.0	16.8	*4.9*	*7.4*	.1
October	333.8	316.9	284.4	32.5	16.9	*5.1*	*7.2*	.1
November	331.2	311.8	283.6	28.2	19.4	*5.9*	*7.4*	.1
December	328.1	306.7	282.3	24.4	21.4	*6.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	*6.1*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	*7.9*	*8.3*	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	*7.9*	*8.5*	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	*6.7*	*6.9*	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	*6.1*	*6.4*	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	*6.3*	*7.5*	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	*6.0*	*7.0*	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	*5.7*	*6.8*	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	*5.5*	*6.6*	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	*5.4*	*6.3*	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	*6.1*	*6.0*	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	*8.1*	*7.0*	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	*8.8*	*6.9*	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	*8.3*	*6.6*	*
April	358.1	334.9	299.9	35.0	23.2	*6.5*	*5.8*	*
May	361.7	341.1	305.1	36.0	20.6	*5.7*	*5.5*	*
June	379.3	354.3	313.2	41.1	25.0	*6.6*	*6.2*	*.4*
July	381.2	358.8	314.8	44.0	22.4	*5.9*	*6.3*	*.2*
August	377.4	357.7	310.7	47.0	19.7	*5.2*	*5.8*	*.1*
September	375.9	358.7	321.9	36.8	17.2	*4.6*	*6.0*	*.1*
October	364.2	348.1	316.8	31.3	*16.1*	*4.4*	*5.4*	*.1*
November	361.3	342.1	315.2	*26.9*	*19.2*	*5.3*		*.1*
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	29.5	27.2	26.4	.8	2.3	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
February	29.7	27.5	26.6	.9	2.2	*7.3*	*7.4*	*
March	30.8	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.3	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
April	30.8	28.9	27.5	1.4	1.9	*6.2*	*5.9*	*
May	31.1	29.3	27.9	1.4	1.8	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
June	32.4	30.0	28.4	1.6	2.4	*7.5*	*6.2*	*
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	32.8	30.8	28.9	1.9	2.0	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
September	31.8	30.1	28.6	1.5	1.7	*5.3*	*4.9*	*
October	31.9	30.1	28.8	1.3	1.8	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
November	32.0	30.1	29.0	1.1	1.9	*6.0*	*5.9*	*
December	30.2	28.3	27.3	1.0	1.9	*6.3*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	*6.5*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	*6.6*	*7.9*	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	*6.1*	*7.9*	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	*6.5*	*7.7*	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	*5.4*	*6.7*	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	*5.5*	*6.1*	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.9*	*6.3*	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	*6.1*	*5.7*	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*5.5*	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	*6.1*	*5.4*	.4
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	*5.7*	*6.0*	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	*6.2*	*6.1*	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	*7.8*	*8.1*	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	*9.3*	*8.8*	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	*8.0*	*8.3*	*
April	35.0	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.1	*6.1*	*6.5*	*
May	35.1	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*5.7*	*
June	36.4	33.5	31.9	1.6	2.9	*7.9*	*6.6*	*
July	35.1	32.7	31.0	1.7	2.4	*6.9*	*5.9*	*
August	34.2	32.0	30.1	1.9	2.2	*6.5*	*5.2*	*
September	35.9	33.8	32.3	1.5	*2.1*	*6.0*	*4.6*	*
October	35.1	33.2	32.0	*1.2*	*1.9*	*5.5*	*4.4*	*
November	*35.2*	*32.9*	*31.8*	*1.1*	*2.3*	*6.5*	*5.3*	*
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1976								
January	44.6	41.8	40.8	1.0	2.8	*6.2*	*7.9*	*
February	44.7	42.3	41.2	1.1	2.4	*5.4*	*7.4*	*
March	45.3	42.8	41.5	1.3	2.5	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
April	47.1	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.1	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
May	46.6	44.9	43.2	1.7	1.7	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	48.6	46.0	44.1	1.9	2.6	*5.4*	*6.2*	*
July	49.4	47.0	44.9	2.1	2.4	*4.8*	*5.5*	*
August	49.0	46.8	44.6	2.2	2.2	*4.4*	*5.3*	*
September	49.6	47.7	46.0	1.7	1.9	*3.9*	*4.9*	*
October	48.9	47.0	45.5	1.5	1.9	*3.9*	*5.1*	*
November	49.0	46.9	45.6	1.3	2.1	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	49.4	46.9	45.8	1.1	2.5	*5.0*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	*4.8*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	*5.4*	*7.9*	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	*5.5*	*7.9*	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	*5.2*	*7.7*	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	*4.4*	*6.7*	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.3*	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	*4.1*	*6.0*	.1
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	*4.4*	*5.7*	.1
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	*4.4*	*5.5*	.1
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	*4.3*	*5.4*	.1
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	*4.2*	*6.0*	.1
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	*4.3*	*6.1*	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	*6.0*	*8.1*	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	*6.7*	*8.8*	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	*6.7*	*8.3*	*
April	52.7	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.5*	*
May	52.6	50.3	48.6	1.7	2.3	*4.3*	*5.7*	*
June	52.6	49.8	47.9	1.9	2.8	*5.2*	*6.6*	*
July	52.2	49.8	47.8	2.0	2.4	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
August	51.0	48.8	46.6	*2.2*	2.2	*4.2*	*5.2*	*
September	54.3	52.3	50.6	1.7	2.0	*3.6*	*4.6*	*
October	53.3	51.7	50.3	1.4	1.6	*3.0*	*4.4*	*
November	*53.8*	*51.5*	*50.3*	*1.2*	*2.3*	*4.3*	*5.3*	*
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry
October 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Oct. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	364.2	375.9	346.0	-11.7	18.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	348.1	358.7	327.2	-10.6	20.9
Persons Employed in Agriculture	31.3	36.8	33.0	-5.5	-1.7
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	16.1	17.2	18.8	-1.1	-2.7
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.4*	*4.6*	*5.4*	*-.2*	*-1.0*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*5.2*	*5.6*	*6.3*	*-.4*	*-1.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*282.2*	*287.8*	*270.1*	*-5.3*	*+12.1*
MANUFACTURING	*26.9*	*27.2*	*26.1*	*-.3*	*+.8*
Durable Goods	*17.6*	*18.1*	*17.0*	*-.5*	*+.6*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*11.0*	*11.2*	*10.2*	*-.2*	*+.8*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.2*	*3.3*	*3.4*	*-.1*	*-.2*
Other Durable Goods	*3.4*	*3.6*	*3.4*	*-.2*	*0*
Nondurable Goods	*9.3*	*9.1*	*9.1*	*+.2*	*+.2*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.3*	*4.0*	*4.4*	*+.3*	*-.1*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.2*	*0*	*+.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.2*	*1.1*	*-.1*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.4*	*0*	*+.2*
MINING	*7.0*	*7.1*	*6.2*	*-.1*	*+.8*
10 Metal Mining	*2.2*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*-.1*	*+.1*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*2.1*	*2.2*	*1.8*	*-.1*	*+.3*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*2.7*	*2.6*	*2.3*	*+.1*	*+.4*
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	*18.5*	*19.6*	*17.4*	*-1.1*	*+1.1*
15 General Building Contractors	*5.9*	*6.6*	*5.7*	*-.7*	*+.2*
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	*5.8*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*0*	*+.6*
17 Special Trade Contractors	*6.8*	*7.2*	*6.5*	*-.4*	*+.3*
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	*22.7*	*22.9*	*20.5*	*-.2*	*+2.2*
40 Railroad Transportation	*7.4*	*7.4*	*6.3*	*0*	*+1.1*
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	*6.9*	*7.1*	*6.5*	*-.2*	*+.4*
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	*8.4*	*8.4*	*7.7*	*0*	*+.7*
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	*72.0*	*75.0*	*67.7*	*-3.0*	*+4.3*
Wholesale Trade	*16.3*	*16.4*	*16.0*	*-.1*	*+.3*
Retail Trade	*55.7*	*58.6*	*51.7*	*-2.9*	*+4.0*
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	*8.7*	*9.1*	*8.1*	*-.4*	*+.6*
54 Food Stores	*7.5*	*7.6*	*7.0*	*-.1*	*+.5*
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	*8.6*	*8.8*	*8.4*	*-.2*	*+.2*
58 Eating and Drinking Places	*20.3*	*22.3*	*18.2*	*-2.0*	*+2.1*
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.0*	*-.2*	*+.6*
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	*12.3*	*12.4*	*11.4*	*-.1*	*+.9*
SERVICES	*52.4*	*54.9*	*49.2*	*-2.5*	*+3.2*
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	*6.6*	*8.2*	*6.0*	*-1.6*	*+.6*
72 Personal Services	*2.7*	*2.7*	*2.5*	*0*	*+.2*
80 Medical and other Health Services	*17.1*	*17.3*	*16.0*	*-.2*	*+1.1*
Other Services	*26.0*	*26.7*	*24.7*	*-.7*	*+1.3*
GOVERNMENT	*70.4*	*68.4*	*71.6*	*+2.0*	*-1.2*
91 Federal Government	*13.9*	*13.9*	*14.0*	*0*	*-.1*
92 State Colleges and Universities	*8.5*	*8.5*	*9.0*	*0*	*-.5*
92 Other State Government	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.1*	*-.3*	*-.4*
93 Local Education	*23.5*	*20.7*	*23.8*	*+2.8*	*-.3*
93 Other Local Government	*13.8*	*14.3*	*13.7*	*-.5*	*+.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. . . Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*
2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

October 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Oct. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	35.1	35.9	36.0	-.8	-.9
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33.2	33.8	33.8	-.6	-.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.2	1.5	1.3	-.3	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.9	2.1	2.2	-.2	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	5.5	6.0	6.1	-.6	-.6
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	6.0	6.7	6.5	-.7	-.5
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*30.8*	*31.4*	*29.7*	*-.6*	*+1.1*
Manufacturing	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*+.1*
Contract Construction	*2.0*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*-.1*	
Transportation and Public Utilities	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*0*	*+.2*
Trade	*10.2*	*10.5*	*9.7*	*-.3*	*+.5*
Wholesale Trade	*2.6*	*2.6*	*2.6*	*0*	*0*
Retail Trade	*7.6*	*7.9*	*7.1*	*-.3*	*+.5*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*0*	*+.1*
Services and Mining	*6.6*	*6.7*	*6.1*	*-.1*	*+.5*
Government	*6.1*	*6.2*	*6.3*	*-.1*	*-.2*
Federal Government	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*0*	*+.1*
State and Local Government	*4.1*	*4.2*	*4.4*	*-.1*	*-.3*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

October 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Oct. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	53.3	54.3	53.6	-1.0	-.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	51.7	52.3	51.3	-.6	.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.4	1.7	1.5	-.3	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.6	2.0	2.3	-.4	-.7
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*3.0*	*3.6*	*4.3*	*-.6*	*-1.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*3.6*	*4.1*	*4.9*	*-.5*	*-1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*46.0*	*46.6*	*44.5*	*-.6*	*+1.5*
Manufacturing	*4.2*	*4.2*	*4.5*	*0*	*-.3*
Contract Construction	*2.6*	*3.0*	*2.6*	*-.4*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*4.3*	*4.4*	*3.8*	*-.1*	*+.5*
Trade	*15.6*	*15.6*	*14.5*	*0*	*+1.1*
Wholesale Trade	*5.2*	*5.2*	*4.9*	*0*	*+.3*
Retail Trade	*10.4*	*10.4*	*9.6*	*0*	*+.8*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*9.4*	*9.5*	*8.9*	*-.1*	*+.5*
Government	*7.8*	*7.8*	*8.1*	*0*	*-.3*
Federal Government	*1.4*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*-.1*	*0*
State and Local Government	*6.4*	*6.3*	*6.7*	*+.1*	*-.3*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1978
STATEWIDE	377.4	375.9	364.2	357.7	358.7	348.1	19.7	17.2	16.1	*5.2*	*4.6*	*4.4*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.2	35.9	35.1	32.0	33.8	33.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	*6.5*	*6.0*	*5.5*
BILLINGS SMSA	51.0	54.3	53.3	48.8	52.3	51.7	2.2	2.0	1.6	*4.2*	*3.6*	*3.0*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	292.2	285.7	275.8	276.9	272.6	263.2	15.3	13.1	12.6	*5.3*	*4.6*	*4.6*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	37.7	36.9	35.3	34.9	34.6	33.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	*7.5*	*6.1*	*5.7*
BOZEMAN	29.6	29.4	29.1	28.6	28.5	28.1	1.0	.9	1.0	*3.3*	*2.9*	*3.3*
GLASGOW	17.7	16.8	15.9	16.9	16.2	15.3	.8	.6	.6	*4.3*	*3.7*	*3.8*
GLENDIVE	15.4	14.8	14.2	15.0	14.5	13.9	.4	.3	.3	*2.8*	*2.3*	*2.0*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.7	12.5	11.7	13.1	12.1	11.3	.6	.4	.4	*4.2*	*3.2*	*3.6*
HAVRE	13.3	12.7	12.1	12.7	12.3	11.7	.6	.4	.4	*4.7*	*3.6*	*3.5*
HELENA	27.8	27.5	26.8	26.4	26.3	25.6	1.4	1.2	1.2	*4.9*	*4.3*	*4.4*
KALISPELL	37.9	37.7	36.6	35.3	35.3	34.3	2.6	2.4	2.3	*6.8*	*6.4*	*6.3*
LEWISTOWN	11.3	10.5	10.0	10.9	10.2	9.6	.4	.3	.4	*3.9*	*3.3*	*3.7*
MILES CITY	15.5	15.0	14.5	14.9	14.4	14.0	.6	.6	.5	*4.0*	*3.7*	*3.3*
MISSOULA	52.3	53.0	52.8	49.2	50.3	50.0	3.1	2.7	2.8	*5.8*	*5.2*	*5.3*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.1	18.8	16.9	19.0	17.9	16.1	1.1	.9	.8	*5.5*	*4.8*	*4.5*

1/ *A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.*
2/ *Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.*
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	Net Change 1977-1978	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	Net Change 1977-1978
STATEWIDE	364.2	346.0	*5.3*	348.1	327.2	*6.4*	16.1	18.8	*-2.7*	4.4	5.4	*-1.0*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	36.0	*-2.5*	33.2	33.8	*-1.8*	1.9	2.2	*-.3*	5.5	6.1	*-.6*
BILLINGS SMSA	53.3	53.6	*-.6*	51.7	51.3	*.8*	1.6	2.3	*-.7*	3.0	4.3	*-1.3*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	275.8	256.4	*7.6*	263.2	242.1	*8.7*	12.6	14.3	*-1.7*	4.6	5.6	*-1.0*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.3	33.1	*6.6*	33.3	30.9	*7.8*	2.0	2.2	*-.2*	5.7	6.6	*-.9*
BOZEMAN	29.1	23.9	*21.8*	28.1	22.9	*22.7*	1.0	1.0	*0*	3.3	4.2	*-.9*
GLASGOW	15.9	16.3	*-2.5*	15.3	15.6	*-1.9*	.6	.7	*-.1*	3.8	4.6	*-.8*
GLENDIVE	14.2	14.3	*-.7*	13.9	14.0	*-.7*	.3	.3	*0*	2.0	2.4	*-.4*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.7	11.4	*2.6*	11.3	10.8	*4.6*	.4	.6	*-.2*	3.6	5.0	*-1.4*
HAVRE	12.1	12.8	*-5.5*	11.7	12.3	*-4.9*	.4	.5	*-.1*	3.5	3.8	*-.3*
HELENA	26.8	25.1	*6.8*	25.6	23.9	*7.1*	1.2	1.2	*0*	4.4	4.9	*-.5*
KALISPELL	36.6	31.6	*15.8*	34.3	28.9	*18.7*	2.3	2.7	*-.4*	6.3	8.6	*-2.3*
LEWISTOWN	10.0	10.6	*-5.7*	9.6	10.2	*-5.9*	.4	.4	*0*	3.7	4.2	*-.5*
MILES CITY	14.5	14.8	*-2.0*	14.0	14.3	*-2.1*	.5	.5	*0*	3.3	3.8	*-.5*
MISSOULA	52.8	45.4	*16.3*	50.0	42.3	*18.2*	2.8	3.1	*-.3*	5.3	6.8	*-1.5*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.9	16.9	*0*	16.1	16.0	*.6*	.8	.9	*-.1*	4.5	5.5	*-1.0*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IXA

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
OCTOBER 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	364153	348066	16087	4.4
CASCADE	35129	33180	1949	5.5
YELLOWSTONE	53342	51751	1591	3.0
BEAVERHEAD	4247	4158	89	2.1
BIG HORN	5227	4968	259	5.0
BLAINE	2806	2647	159	5.7
BROADWATER	1478	1432	46	3.1
CARBON	3184	3082	102	3.2
CARTER	986	930	56	5.7
CHOUTEAU	2743	2667	76	2.8
CUSTER	5778	5628	150	2.6
DANIELS	1374	1353	21	1.5
DAWSON	5362	5213	149	2.8
DEER LODGE	6293	5863	430	6.8
FALLON	2111	2062	49	2.3
FERGUS	5090	4928	162	3.2
FLATHEAD	21218	19831	1387	6.5
GALLATIN	21902	21249	653	3.0
GARFIELD	852	833	19	2.2
GLACIER	5575	5109	466	8.4
GOLDEN VALLEY	421	411	10	2.4
GRANITE	1445	1376	69	4.8
HILL	8215	7986	229	2.8
JEFFERSON	2201	2027	174	7.9
JUDITH BASIN	1214	1106	108	8.9
LAKE	8151	7783	368	4.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	23089	22128	961	4.2
LIBERTY	1050	1020	30	2.9
LINCOLN	7203	6670	533	7.4
MC CONE	1264	1239	25	2.0
MADISON	2418	2365	53	2.2
MEAGHER	1003	961	42	4.2
MINERAL	1572	1480	92	5.9
MISSOULA	39730	37791	1939	4.9
MUSSELSHELL	1628	1576	52	3.2
PARK	6192	5925	267	4.3
PETROLEUM	298	295	3	1.0
PHILLIPS	2626	2498	128	4.9
PONDERA	3335	3255	80	2.4
POWDER RIVER	1052	1027	25	2.4
POWELL	3524	3368	156	4.4
PRAIRIE	985	979	6	.6
RAVALLI	7667	7166	501	6.5
RICHLAND	5105	5027	78	1.5
ROOSEVELT	4809	4606	203	4.2
ROSEBUD	4095	3914	181	4.4
SANDERS	3789	3540	249	6.6
SHERIDAN	2426	2388	38	1.6
SILVER BOW	17326	16124	1202	6.9
STILLWATER	1803	1759	44	2.4
SWEET GRASS	1527	1512	15	1.0
TETON	2578	2497	81	3.1
TOOLE	2647	2589	58	2.2
TREASURE	452	434	18	4.0
VALLEY	4631	4425	206	4.4
WHEATLAND	1359	1322	37	2.7
WIBAUX	626	613	13	2.1

TABLE 1XB

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
SEPTEMBER 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	375920	358710	17210	4.6
CASCADE	35939	33786	2153	6.0
YELLOWSTONE	54253	52280	1973	3.6
BEAVERHEAD	4544	4423	121	2.7
BIG HORN	5415	5166	249	4.6
BLAINE	2917	2724	193	6.6
BROADWATER	1568	1515	53	3.4
CARBON	3492	3402	90	2.6
CARTER	1079	1015	64	5.9
CHOUTEAU	3053	2970	83	2.7
CUSTER	6039	5884	155	2.6
DANIELS	1494	1469	25	1.7
DAWSON	5619	5437	182	3.2
DEER LODGE	6309	5841	468	7.4
FALLON	2096	2043	53	2.5
FERGUS	5328	5179	149	2.8
FLATHEAD	21862	20501	1361	6.2
GALLATIN	21949	21340	609	2.8
GARFIELD	864	847	17	2.0
GLACIER	6553	5984	569	8.7
GOLDEN VALLEY	454	444	10	2.2
GRANITE	1473	1395	78	5.3
HILL	8687	8453	234	2.7
JEFFERSON	2390	2213	177	7.4
JUDITH BASIN	1330	1219	111	8.3
LAKE	8408	7964	444	5.3
LEWIS AND CLARK	23582	22618	964	4.1
LIBERTY	1116	1086	30	2.7
LINCOLN	7430	6807	623	8.4
MC CONE	1414	1390	24	1.7
MADISON	2768	2703	65	2.3
MEAGHER	1093	1067	26	2.4
MINERAL	1690	1600	90	5.3
MISSOULA	39298	37347	1951	5.0
MUSSELSHELL	1741	1690	51	2.9
PARK	6344	6119	225	3.5
PETROLEUM	320	317	3	.9
PHILLIPS	2837	2704	133	4.7
PONDERA	3534	3436	98	2.8
POWDER RIVER	1139	1112	27	2.4
POWELL	3777	3622	155	4.1
PRAIRIE	1018	1010	8	.8
RAVALLI	7977	7496	481	6.0
RICHLAND	5170	5077	93	1.8
ROOSEVELT	4981	4794	187	3.8
ROSEBUD	4171	3923	248	5.9
SANDERS	4039	3827	212	5.2
SHERIDAN	2610	2569	41	1.6
SILVER BOW	18006	16638	1368	7.6
STILLWATER	1897	1847	50	2.6
SWEET GRASS	1726	1709	17	1.0
TETON	2871	2789	82	2.9
TOOLE	2786	2724	62	2.2
TREASURE	482	469	13	2.7
VALLEY	4886	4658	228	4.7
WHEATLAND	1381	1361	20	1.4
WIBAUX	721	707	14	1.9

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction.....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government1/	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

1978

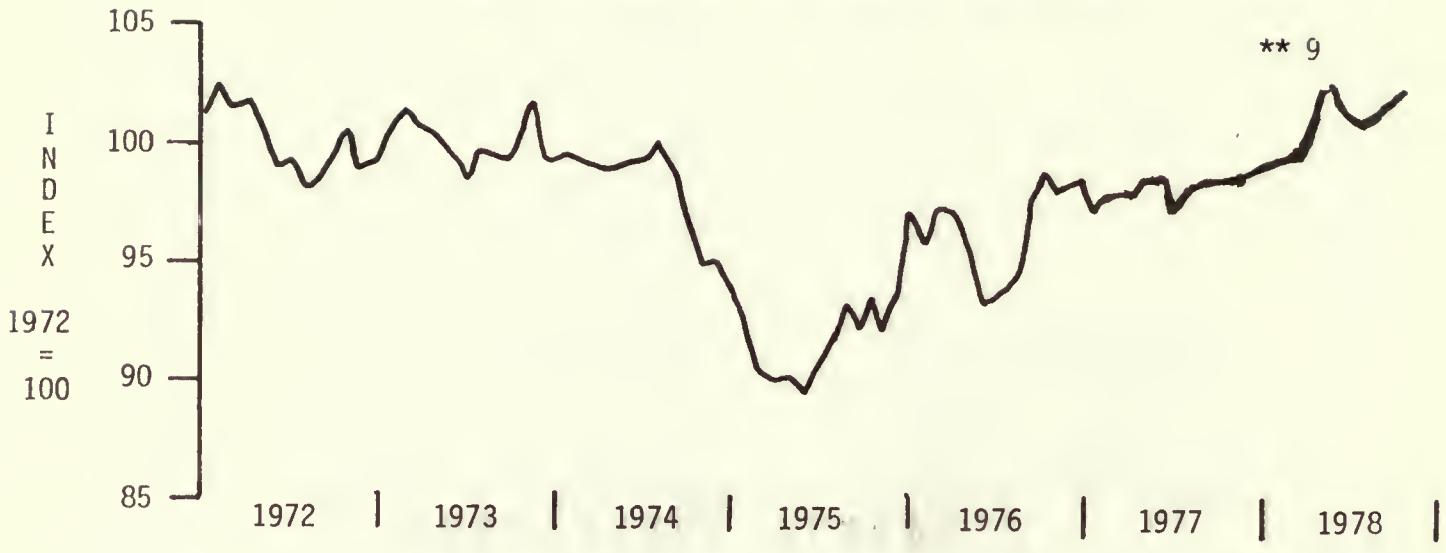
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	115.2	115.4	116.2	117.4	117.5	118.3	117.6	117.5	117.1
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8
Mining.....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	30.7	30.5	30.8	31.4	31.6	31.0	32.1	32.7	32.6
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2
Services.....	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.4	33.9	33.9	33.0	33.1
Government1/.....	35.8	35.9	36.2	36.6	36.3	36.0	35.1	34.9	34.8

1/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark.*

Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

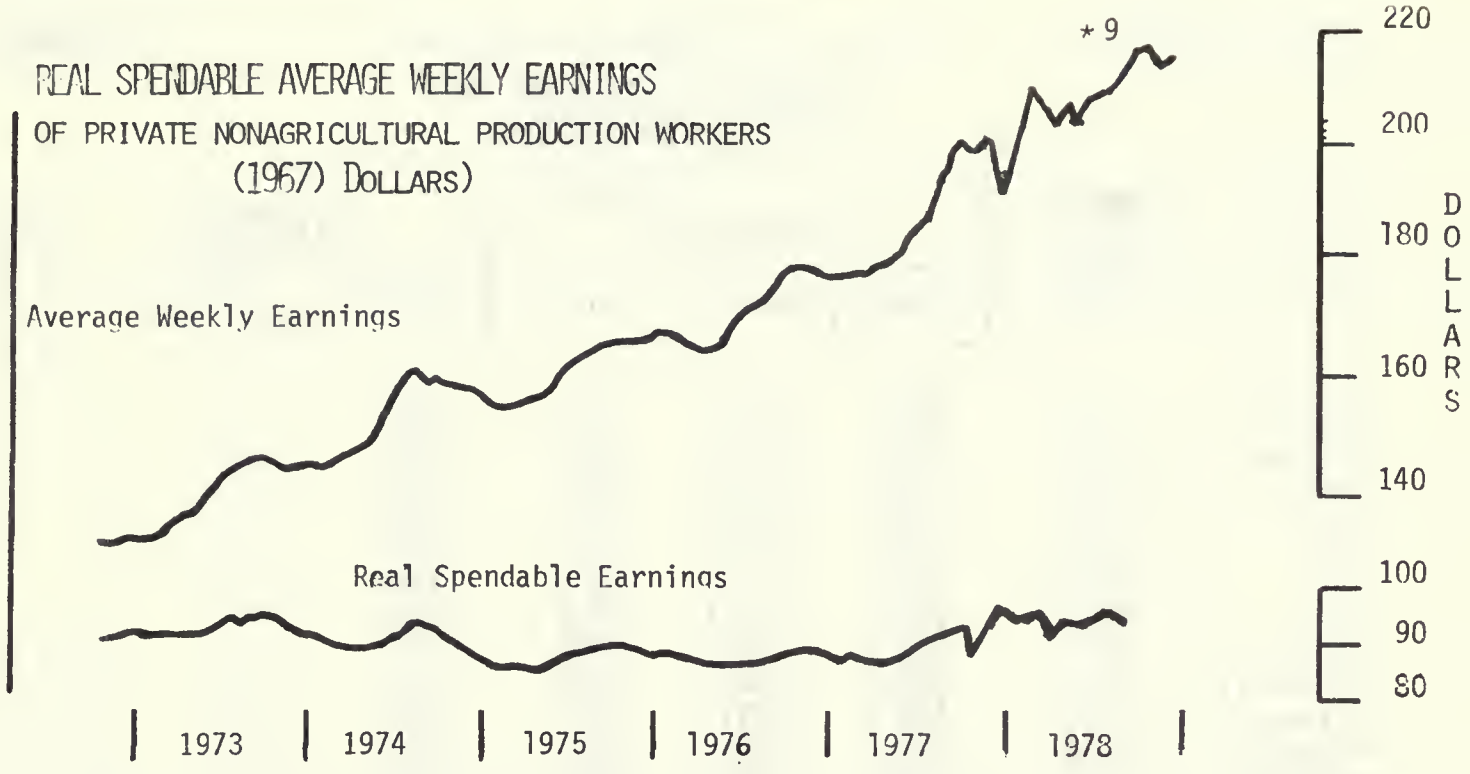
1977	
January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	101.3
August	101.8
September	102.6
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The composite index of six leading economic indicators advanced slightly again in September. The index is now at 102.6, up from August's 101.8 level. This is a reversal of the trend that was apparent from April to July when the index moved downward, but it is not enough of an upward trend to be any basis for a prediction. Some promise could be denoted if the index continues to rise during the remainder of the year, but it is still currently well below the high level reached in April.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	SEPT. 1978	AUG. 1978	SEPT. 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	215.27	214.68	197.89
Taxes Withheld	34.46	34.38	29.21
Spendable Earnings	180.81	180.30	168.67
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	90.00	89.11	77.00
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	90.81	91.19	91.67

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1977		
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44
1978		
Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.	207.77	91.58
May	208.58	91.04
June	216.58	93.03
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Inflation continued to have an adverse effect on real spendable wages during September. Although gross wages were up slightly for the month the adjustment to the C.P.I. caused the real spendable figure to fall to 90.81. Taxes accounted for a very small portion of the loss and can be expected to rise as gross earnings do, but persistent inflation was counteracting any possible gains in earnings.

An annual comparison to last September's figures show even more revealing results. Although gross wages have grown by 8.7% the real spendable figure shows a slight decrease. Taxes have increased proportionately with gross wages over the period but clearly the major culprit in the loss of real wages is inflation.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	327.7	307.2	275.1	32.1	20.5	6.3	7.8	*
February	328.3	308.8	275.6	33.2	19.5	5.9	7.6	*
March	328.3	308.3	275.2	33.1	20.0	6.1	7.5	*
April	330.0	311.1	276.8	34.3	18.9	5.7	7.5	*
May	329.4	310.3	277.1	33.2	19.1	5.8	7.3	*
June	326.4	306.8	273.4	33.4	19.6	6.0	7.5	.1
July	334.2	313.9	279.4	34.5	20.3	6.1	7.8	.1
August	333.9	313.2	279.3	33.9	20.7	6.2	7.9	.1
September	335.6	315.5	282.2	33.3	20.1	6.0	7.8	.1
October	335.0	315.1	281.9	33.2	19.9	5.9	7.9	.1
November	337.2	317.0	283.8	33.2	20.2	6.0	8.1	.1
December	337.0	315.9	282.3	33.6	21.1	6.3	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	362.3	339.4	305.1	34.3	22.9	6.3	6.0	*
May	361.9	338.9	305.9	33.0	23.0	6.4	6.1	*
June	360.3	337.1	304.0	33.1	23.2	6.4	5.7	.4
July	361.3	338.2	304.6	33.6	23.1	6.4	6.2	.2
August	353.9	332.3	299.7	32.6	21.6	6.1	5.9	.1
September	366.9	346.3	314.1	32.2	20.6	5.6	6.0	.1
October	365.3	346.1	314.2	31.9	19.2	5.2	5.8	.1
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	30.7	28.6	27.3	1.3	2.1	6.9	6.3	*
February	31.2	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.0	6.5	5.9	*
March	31.3	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
April	30.8	28.8	27.4	1.4	2.0	6.5	5.7	*
May	30.9	29.0	27.7	1.3	1.9	6.2	5.8	*
June	31.0	28.9	27.6	1.3	2.1	6.8	6.0	*
July	31.6	29.5	28.1	1.4	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
August	31.7	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
September	31.6	29.7	28.4	1.3	1.9	6.1	6.0	*
October	31.7	29.8	28.5	1.3	1.9	6.1	5.9	*
November	32.2	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.0	*
December	30.8	28.9	27.6	1.3	1.9	6.3	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	6.5	6.1	*
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.8	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.0	32.8	31.4	1.4	2.2	6.3	6.3	*
May	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.6	6.4	*
June	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.3	6.4	*
July	34.1	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	*
August	33.1	30.8	29.5	1.3	2.3	6.9	6.1	*
September	35.7	33.3	32.0	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.6	*
October	35.0	32.9	31.7	1.2	2.1	6.0	5.2	*
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	46.0	43.6	42.2	1.4	2.4	5.2	6.3	*
February	46.4	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.1	4.6	5.9	*
March	46.5	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.2	4.8	6.1	*
April	47.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.2	4.7	5.7	*
May	46.8	44.6	43.1	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.8	*
June	47.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.0	*
July	48.0	45.7	44.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
August	47.9	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.2	*
September	49.3	47.1	45.6	1.5	2.2	4.4	6.0	*
October	48.6	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.9	*
November	48.9	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.0	*
December	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.8	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.3	*
May	52.7	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.4	*
June	51.0	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
July	50.8	48.5	47.0	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.4	*
August	49.9	47.6	46.1	1.5	2.3	4.6	6.1	*
September	54.0	51.8	50.3	1.5	2.2	4.1	5.6	*
October	53.1	51.2	49.7	1.5	1.9	3.6	5.2	*
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct. 1977	Oct. 1978	Sept. 1978	Oct 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$214.67	$215.27	$202.65	35.6	35.7	35.0	6.03	6.03	5.79
MANUFACTURING	326.82	328.75	298.49	40.7	41.3	43.1	8.03	7.96	6.98
Durable Goods	318.37	323.38	312.58	40.3	41.3	44.4	7.90	7.83	7.04
Primary Metal Industries	337.82	337.41	310.06	38.0	37.7	39.7	8.89	8.95	7.81
Nondurable Goods	346.94	341.14	274.57	41.7	41.4	40.2	8.32	8.24	6.83
Food and Kindred Products	271.92	273.62	228.78	43.3	43.5	41.0	6.28	6.29	5.58
MINING	427.34	411.77	378.06	46.4	45.2	42.1	9.21	9.11	8.98
Metal Mining	465.30	415.42	434.07	42.3	38.5	39.0	11.00	10.79	11.13
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	364.03	354.45	409.42	33.8	33.0	37.7	10.77	10.74	10.86
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	318.17	319.28	315.78	41.7	41.9	42.5	7.63	7.62	7.43
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	323.44	324.87	275.10	45.3	45.5	42.0	7.14	7.14	6.55
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	161.05	166.32	157.74	32.8	33.0	33.0	4.91	5.04	4.78
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	149.58	148.06	139.48	35.7	36.2	36.9	4.19	4.09	3.78
SERVICES	136.94	137.02	117.41	33.4	33.5	29.5	4.10	4.09	3.98

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Sep. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sep. 1977	Sep. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sep. 1977	Sep. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sep. 1977	Sep. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sep. 1977	Sep. 1978	Aug. 1978	Sep. 1977
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.5	4.8	3.0	3.0	4.3	5.2	3.7	5.5	4.2	2.5	3.6	.3	.5	.6
Durable Goods	2.7	3.4	3.6	2.4	3.0	3.4	4.7	3.3	5.9	3.8	2.1	3.8	.2	.5	.5
Primary Metal Industries	1.5	2.2	3.1	1.1	1.8	1.9	4.9	1.7	6.4	3.2	1.1	3.2	.5	.2	1.2
Nondurable Goods	4.8	3.7	6.9	4.3	3.1	6.0	6.0	4.3	4.7	4.9	3.2	3.2	.6	.6	.7
MINING	5.3	4.5	2.1	3.4	4.2	1.6	6.4	4.2	8.3	5.4	2.9	6.4	.6	.4	1.3
Metal Mining	1.5	1.1	1.5	.2	*	.1	3.2	2.3	4.3	.6	.4	.3	1.7	.3	2.6

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	10	13	292	222
MINING	11	10	100	115
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	68	49	845	734
MANUFACTURING	25	8	227	174
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	18	10	159	146
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	90	78	1,128	1,030
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	35	40	398	375
SERVICES	118	118	1,311	1,154
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	7	2	77	70
STATE TOTAL	382	328	4,537	4,020

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	382	328	4537	4020
GREAT FALLS SMSA	29	26	385	435
BILLINGS SMSA	64	76	735	649
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	13	20	305	276
Beaverhead	2	1	51	35
Deer Lodge	1	0	22	29
Granite	0	1	12	7
Madison	0	2	34	29
Powell	0	0	31	18
Silver Bow	10	16	155	158
BOZEMAN LMA	36	31	475	373
Gallatin	30	28	386	298
Meagher	1	0	15	5
Park	5	3	74	70
GLASGOW LMA	12	5	118	109
Daniels	1	0	4	10
Phillips	3	0	15	16
Roosevelt	4	4	40	25
Sheridan	1	0	22	20
Valley	3	1	37	38
GLENDIVE LMA	17	15	181	142
Dawson	12	4	57	40
Garfield	0	1	8	7
McCone	0	3	6	12
Prairie	0	2	7	15
Richland	5	5	100	66
Wibaux	0	0	3	2
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	13	5	125	88
Big Horn	4	1	39	29
Carbon	5	2	41	30
Stillwater	1	1	24	20
Sweet Grass	3	1	21	9

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1977	1978	1977
HAVRE LMA	16	9	137	129
Blaine	1	1	24	17
Hill	15	7	96	88
Liberty	0	1	17	24
HELENA LMA	30	24	352	314
Broadwater	2	1	15	18
Jefferson	3	1	42	18
Lewis and Clark	25	22	295	278
KALISPELL LMA	46	38	578	490
Flathead	31	25	396	334
Lake	7	6	98	87
Lincoln	8	7	84	69
LEWISTOWN LMA	13	7	102	94
Fergus	8	4	65	65
Golden Valley	1	0	3	3
Judith Basin	0	1	7	7
Musselshell	2	1	17	15
Petroleum	0	0	2	0
Wheatland	2	1	8	4
MILES CITY LMA	9	11	127	119
Carter	1	0	8	7
Custer	5	7	57	67
Fallon	2	1	16	10
Powder River	0	0	16	4
Rosebud	1	2	28	26
Treasure	0	1	2	5
MISSOULA LMA	72	53	718	644
Mineral	1	1	16	13
Missoula	46	49	517	489
Ravalli	18	2	136	99
Sanders	7	1	49	43
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	12	8	199	158
Chouteau	1	2	23	14
Glacier	4	1	55	35
Pondera	2	1	47	43
Teton	3	0	26	13
Toole	2	4	48	53

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETA5-1598 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

OCTOBER 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	37	3,231.00
BIGHORN	121	9,146.79
BLAINE	69	4,287.80
BROADWATER	45	3,975.00
CARBON	105	8,773.00
CARTER	15	1,272.00
CASCADE	2,042	161,000.00
CHOUTEAU	60	3,715.00
CUSTER	91	5,151.60
DANIELS	12	434.00
DAWSON	56	4,194.20
DEER LODGE	492	37,587.81
FALLON	16	1,478.00
FERGUS	125	9,734.62
FLATHEAD	1,227	90,538.92
GALLATIN	528	40,459.91
GARFIELD	3	198.00
GLACIER	427	29,215.07
GOLDEN VALLEY	4	99.00
GRANITE	96	8,557.44
HILL	155	11,432.00
JEFFERSON	194	18,341.60
JUDITH BASIN	22	1,176.00
LAKE	256	19,210.01
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,027	78,767.31
LIBERTY	15	1,139.00
LINCOLN	476	35,005.75
MCCONE	6	664.00
MADISON	31	2,031.80
MEAGHER	30	1,684.74
MINERAL	59	4,330.00
MISSOULA	2,544	201,381.18
MUSSELSHELL	37	2,821.00
PARK	209	14,520.38
PETROLEUM	0	0.00
PHILLIPS	57	4,007.00
PONDERA	59	4,277.00
POWDER RIVER	14	1,065.00
POWELL	180	12,477.78
PRAIRIE	1	104.00
RAVALLI	384	27,386.53
RICHLAND	13	907.00
ROOSEVELT	136	10,506.36
ROSEBUD	142	12,226.00
SANDERS	179	11,908.64
SHERIDAN	18	866.00
SILVER BOW	1,630	128,700.07
STILLWATER	54	3,681.00
SWEET GRASS	3	312.00
TETON	50	3,503.92
TOOLE	33	2,771.00
TREASURE	1	104.00
VALLEY	101	8,121.42
WHEATLAND	20	1,567.00
WIBAUX	3	255.00
YELLOWSTONE	1,582	127,446.86
INTRASTATE	15,298	1,179,232.35
INTERSTATE	1,125	138,660.50
TOTAL	16,423	1,317,892.85

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1978 THRU OCTOBER 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,894	142,390.73
BIGHORN	3,048	240,045.76
BLAINE	2,228	159,838.40
BROADWATER	771	60,430.74
CARBON	2,480	201,030.32
CARTER	242	17,514.00
CASCADE	30,863	2,348,184.55
CHOUTEAU	983	61,697.20
CUSTER	3,236	256,960.56
DANIELS	471	32,395.76
DAWSON	2,306	178,633.88
DEER LODGE	10,128	836,682.81
FALLON	745	54,754.04
FERGUS	3,645	284,050.98
FLATHEAD	23,308	1,784,973.17
GALLATIN	11,432	877,375.31
GARFIELD	195	14,250.63
GLACIER	7,113	526,683.52
GOLDEN VALLEY	130	7,751.00
GRANITE	1,541	120,600.30
HILL	4,579	339,126.09
JEFFERSON	2,376	204,240.26
JUDITH BASIN	895	73,983.21
LAKE	6,113	440,987.32
LEWIS AND CLARK	17,289	1,362,066.78
LIBERTY	432	33,125.00
LINCOLN	12,003	932,459.93
MCCONE	459	37,717.00
MADISON	956	72,857.93
MEAGHER	615	46,879.18
MINERAL	1,544	121,630.85
MISSOULA	31,224	2,319,951.40
MUSSELSHELL	1,063	84,324.68
PARK	4,360	306,663.61
PETROLEUM	42	3,877.00
PHILLIPS	1,390	101,160.25
PONDERA	1,442	112,478.75
POWDER RIVER	191	17,722.00
POWELL	2,871	217,261.75
PRAIRIE	432	38,730.00
RAVALLI	7,403	517,883.01
RICHLAND	1,326	101,326.20
ROOSEVELT	2,812	191,186.19
ROSEBUD	3,166	258,465.84
SANDERS	4,446	340,674.41
SHERIDAN	616	40,755.04
SILVER BOW	27,742	2,172,763.79
STILLWATER	1,239	98,303.28
SWEET GRASS	343	25,055.00
TETON	1,209	89,561.55
TOOLE	1,506	116,794.16
TREASURE	206	19,922.00
VALLEY	3,956	286,754.93
WHEATLAND	438	35,672.00
WIBAUX	182	13,571.00
YELLOWSTONE	34,495	2,750,912.67
INTRASTATE	289,800	22,385,499.49
INTERSTATE	16,341	1,820,261.72
TOTAL	306,141	24,205,761.21

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	35,846	38,206	-2,360	-6.2
Continued Claims[1/]	383,017	359,940	23,077	5.8
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	306,282	318,597	-12,315	-3.9
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$24,205,799	$24,121,393	$84,406	0.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$84.00	$79.33	$4.67	5.9

MONTHLY

	October 1978	Sept. 1978	October 1977	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	3,110	2,114	3,510	-400	-11.4
Continued Claims[1/]	20,547	22,615	25,725	-5,178	-20.1
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	16,423	17,527	18,895	-2,472	-13.1
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$1,317,893	$1,367,204	$1,486,452	-$168,559	-11.3
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$84.46	$82.22	$85.85	-$1.39	-1.6
Trust Fund Balance	$4,474,729*	$2,829,568*	-$1,236,085**	$5,710,814	462.0

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089*
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $ 9,284,089*

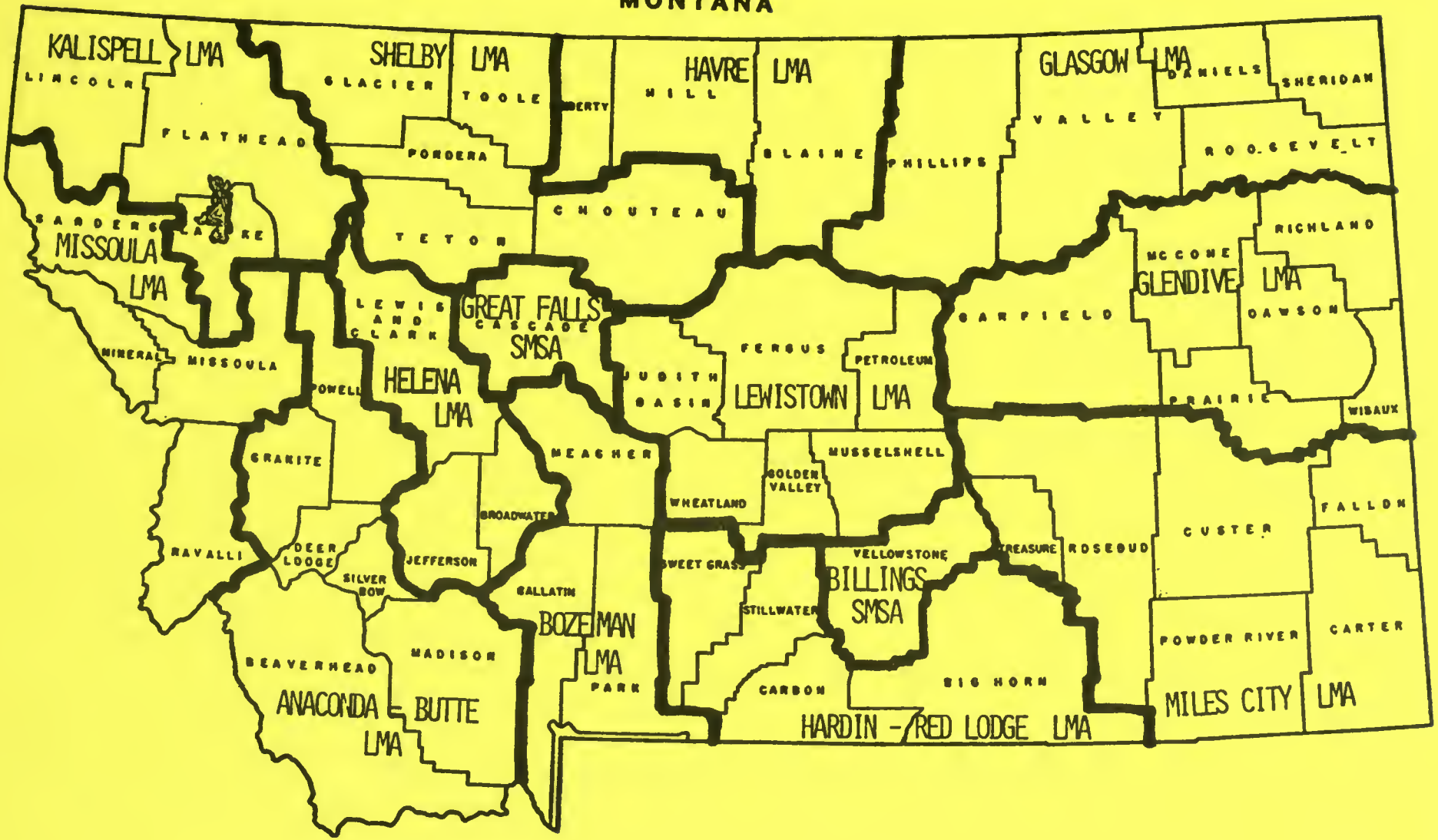
The initial claims and continued claims totals both decreased sharply from October of a year ago, possibly due to the unseasonably mild weather experienced in October. Initial claims rose considerably from September, whereas continued claims dropped slightly from last month. The year-to-date figures show initial claims trailing the 1977 total, and continued claims ahead of last year's total.

The decrease in the number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid from October of last year may also be attributable to the warm Indian Summer weather of last month. Both statistics dropped narrowly from September, and the year-to-date totals once again have the number of benefit payments behind, and the amount of benefits paid ahead of the 1977 figures.

The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) rose from September to October, but was slightly less than the AWBA of one year ago. The year-to-date figure remains out in front of last year's AWBA by $4.67.

The trust fund balance increased from September to October, which is a result of the start of third quarter contributions coming in from covered employers. At this point, the trust fund balance is ahead of last year's figure by over $5.7 million.

LABOR MARKET AREAS IN MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB-449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.